

## Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 MC-02 TRSE-00 XMB-02 EB-07 IGA-01 ACDA-05

COME-00 OMB-01 /084 W

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R 251605Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1112

INFO USDAO DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 1178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML MILI PBOR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEFENSE MINISTER DOUKARA TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 046007

1. I SAW DOUKARA FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE RESULTS OF HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. HE WAS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION HE HAD BEEN GIVEN AND OF THE RESULTS OF HIS TRIP. HIS ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AND THE CALLS THAT HE HAD MADE WERE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH REFTEL.

2. HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE C-130, SAYING THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE TO PROVIDE HIM WITH AN EMERGENCY AIRLIFT CAPABILITY TO REMOTE AREAS OF THE SIXTH REGION FOR FOODSTUFFS, MEDICINE AND THE LIKE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WOULD BE PERFECTLY HAPPY WITH THE CIVILIAN VERSION OF THE C-130 AND THAT MALI HAD NEITHER THE RESOURCES NOR THE TRAINING TO USE IT FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. I ASKED HIM HOW HE WOULD PROPOSE TO FINANCE IT. OF COURSE HIS PREFERENCE WOULD BE GRANT AID BUT IF THAT WERE IMPOSSIBLE HE WOULD LIKE AS LONG-TERM FINANCING AS POSSIBLE. I ASKED HIM IF

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HE HAD CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING C-47S (REFERENCE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY 280312Z FEB). HE SAID THAT THIS POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON BUT HE REALLY WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THE C-47 BECAUSE OF THE LOW PAY LOAD AND SLOW SPEED AND THE FACT THAT SPARE PARTS FOR THEM ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. I SAID THAT I HAD NO IDEA OF THE AVAILABILITY OF USED C-130S NOR THEIR COST BUT THAT I WOULD SEEK MORE INFORMATION ON THIS POINT. I ASKED DOUKARA ABOUT PILOT TRAINING FOR THE C-130. HE SAID THAT HE HAD A NUMBER OF C-47 PILOTS WHO COULD BECOME QUALIFIED IN THE C-130 WITH THREE TO FIVE MONTHS TRAINING IN THE U.S. HE ALSO DISCUSSED C-130 IN SAME TERMS DURING DATT INITIAL CALL ON HIM.

3. COMMENT: DOUKARA DID NOT GIVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS IN ANY SPECIAL HURRY TO RECEIVE A C-130 BUT RATHER THAT HE WISHED TO BEGIN A DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT. CERTAINLY, GIVEN THE DIFFICULTY OF TRANSPORT IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE FREQUENT SPOT SHORTAGES OF FOOD, MEDICINE AND THE LIKE IN THE REMOTER AREAS, ACQUISITION OF A C-130 BY THE GOM DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE UNREASONABLE. I UNDERSTAND OF COURSE THAT NOW IS NOT A PROPITIOUS TIME TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS ON AIRCRAFT OF THIS SORT BUT ANY INFORMATION I COULD BE GIVEN AS TO AVAILABILITY, COST AND FINANCING METHODS WOULD BE USEFUL IN THIS CONNECTION. I AM TOLD THAT USED C-130S, WHETHER IN MILITARY OR CIVILIAN FIGURATION, ARE VIRTUALLY UNOBTAINABLE AND THAT IN ANY EVENT THE COST OF A RENOVATED C-130 IS VERY LITTLE LESS THAN OF A NEW ONE.  
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